



Town of Hudson

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749
(978) 562-2948

Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chair James Martin
Roll Call: James Martin (left at 8:00), Heidi Graf, Paul Osborne, Brooke Warrington, Brandon Parker, Debbi Edelstein, Jacob Millette
Staff: Pam Helinek, Conservation Agent

Public Hearings

Coolidge Street, continued NOI #190-0564

James Martin moved to continue the hearing to February 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 7-0-0.

Administrative Business

COC Request – Brigham Hill Estates Water Main, 190-0258

The OOC was issued in 1995 for the subdivision, and the project was completed at the time but never closed out. James Martin moved to issue a full COC, second by Paul Osborne, vote 7-0-0

Minor Plan Change Request– 304 Brigham Street (Lot 1), 190-0676

The applicant is concerned that digging the approved rain garden will damage and possibly kill two large trees along Brigham Street. Roof runoff is piped into culvert chambers in the backyard, so the rain garden should not experience much runoff. The owner proposes to plant native vegetation along Brigham Street instead of digging a rain garden. James Martin moved to approve the Plan Change, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 7-0-0. Condition: Planting plan to be approved by the Commission.

Discussion – Cherry Street Fields

The Recreation Department would like to remove up to 6 inches of soil from the Cherry Street Field baseball diamond and replace it with new soil mix. The area is in Riverfront Area to the Assabet River, 25-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland, and Flood Plain. The Commission agreed that the project would require an NOI.

1000 Matrix Way – possible land donation

The property owner has offered to donate a 12.24-acre undisturbed parcel of land to the Conservation Commission. The parcel contains a stream and wetlands, and a drainage easement for Walmart. It directly abuts the Commission's 16.47-acre Buteau Conservation Land, which would result in a 28.71-acre parcel. Brooke Warrington pointed out that acceptance of the gift could also lead to connectivity with Marlborough Conservation Land. Brandon Parker expressed

concern that we have not been out to the parcel and don't know what condition its in, how easy it is to access, and whether it is too wet for trails. James Martin said has walked around the area and there are some old trails there. It would require some cleanup where trash has been dumped over the years. James Martin moved that the Commission support acceptance of the gift, second by Heidi Graf, vote 7-0-0. Pam Helinek will ask the Select Board to approve the gift at their next meeting.

Discussion –Cable Pulling and TOY Restriction Conditions Question, MBTA ROW,190-0647

The applicant requests agreement from the Commission that cable pulling activities may occur during the TOY restrictions for Vernal Pools and Box Turtle Habitat. Sweeps will occur before any vehicle movement during the TOY restriction periods. The Commission agreed that the work did not violate the OOC, but required confirmation from NHESP that it did not violate their restrictions.

Elections –

James Martin nominated Heidi Graf to be Chair, vote 7-0-0

Heidi Graf nominated James Martin to be Vice Chair, vote 7-0-0

The Commission agreed that Brandon Parker would continue as CPC Representative

Minutes – Paul Osborne moved to approve the minutes from January 18, 2024, vote 5-0-1.

Adjournment

Heidi Graf moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.